formed; the names of its members and number of General Body meetings held so far;

(b) what are the names of members of the executive committee and the dates when meetings of the executive committee were held;

(c) what is the number of institutions/courses approved during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(d) whether these institutions were inspected any time by the authorities and whether these institutions fulfilled the required conditions;

(e) whether some of the state Governments had objected to recognitions being given by the Council Committee as they lacked necessary facilities;

(f) whether the Council is going to be reconstituted; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (g) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) initially set up as apex advisory body for technical education in 1945, was given statutory status on 28th March, 1988. Executive Committee of AICTE was set up on 6-1-1989 under Section 12 of the AICTE Act. The first Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Executive Committee are the Union Minister for Human Resource Development and the Union Minister of State for Education respectively. Names of the other members of the Council and the Executive Committee are given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLIV Annexure No. 28)

The statutory AICTE has held one meeting so far. The Executive Committee has also held one meeting over two sitting, on 16th and 27th February, 1989.

On becoming statutory the AICTE adopted the norms, guidelines and procedures of the erstwhile advisory AICTE. Proposals for starting new technical institutions are taken up with the consultation of State Governments and are considered for approval on the basis of inspections and recommendations by Expert Committees. In order to deal with urgent proposals of the State Governments, the Chairman also set up a National Expert Committee with representation from the State Governments, subject experts and others concerned. These Committees consider proposals on the basis of norms and guidelines laid down by the Council in respect of physical infrastructure, financial viability, faculty strength and other academic aspects. In respect of admissions and fees the norms of respective State Governments have been permitted for the present. Approval in principle has been given in a few cases subject to fulfilment of norms and standards and subsequent visits by the Expert Committees. In accordance with the above, nineteen institutions and eighty-eight courses were approved by the Council during 1988-89. The corresponding numbers for 1989-90 are twenty-one institutions and ninety-six courses.

While no State Government has objected to approvals given by the Council, some State Governments have asked for a greater role for the State Governments in the functioning of AICTE. The first term of the Council is five years with effect from 12th May, 1988 and reconstitution would be due after expiry of the term of the present Council.

Augmentation of troops and war materials on the border by Pakistan

454. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has augmented its troops and war materials, close to our borders in the recent past;

(b) if so, which are the areas where such mobilisation of armed forces have been noticed so far;

(c) whether Government have any information about the Pakistan Army Chief's visit to their border posts and conducting the briefing on an "Operation Plan" against India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) Government have seen certain reports which suggest that Pakistan has undertaken certain measures to improve its operational preparedness. It will not be desirable in public interest to disclose details.

(c) and (d) Government have seen media reports of Pakistan Army Chief having visited forward areas including Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

Indo-US workshop on Eco-system in India under Indo-US collaboration

455. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had organised a four day Indo-US workshop in Delhi from the 4th to the 7th January, 1989 to identify some important Eco-Systems in India under Indo-US collaboration;

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof and what is the number-of projects covered under those projects; and

(c) whether Bhitarkanika-Knganga mangrave Eco-systems in Orissa was identified as one of the locations for Indo-US collaboration and if so, by when it would be taken up by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Some areas of collaboration were identified in respect of two wetlands (Kolleru and Pichola), two mangrove areas (Goa and Bhitarkanika) and one Biosphere Reserve (Nilgiri). But actual collaboration will commence after holding a similar Worskshop in the United States by associating institutions dealing with the subject.

Setting up of Indian Institute of Information Technology

456. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2112 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th November 1988 and state:

(a) what progress has so far been made to set up the Indian Institute of Information Technology at Bhubaneswar; and

(b) whether any project report in this regard has been prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) Initial ground work towards setting up the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bhubaneshwar has been done. In view of the large investments involved and the need to provide well defined directions in the establishment of the IIITs, Department of Electronics had invited views from a cross-section of academics and those engaged in the areas of implementation and application of Informatics and related disciplines, regarding objectives, scope, logistics and administration of these institutions. Their views have been received. In order to develop a convergent perspective of the goals etc. of these institutions. Department of Electronics held a Workshop where different aspects relating to the setting up of the institutes were discussed. All the recommendations are being further examined and the project report will be made after a decision is taken on these recommendations.

The main objective in this exercise is to develop expertise and manpower in the emerging area of Informatics and its wide spectrum of applications.